

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims provided below is intended to replace all prior versions of the claims. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) [Apparatus according to Claim 7] A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to claim 22, wherein said strip has a scroll or [zip-zag] zig-zag shape.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A process for punching a series of shaped motor lamination discs from an elongate strip of relatively stiff material to form adjacent discs, the process comprising the steps of simultaneously cutting and shaping said series of shaped lamination discs at a plurality of stations including a slot cutting station and a plurality of intermediate stations, said series of shaped motor lamination discs and said plurality of stations each having centers, said plurality of stations and said strip having an imaginary center line and said centers falling substantially on said center line, cutting at said slot cutting station [at least one slot] a plurality of laterally extending slots through said strip between adjacent discs, said slot forming [at least two] four angled narrow deformable bridges connecting said adjacent discs, orienting each disc of said series of shaped motor lamination discs at said intermediate stations while shaping each said disc at said intermediate stations, and enabling the distances between said adjacent discs at said intermediate stations to be both increased to match a die distance between centers of two of said plurality of stations when shorter than the die distance, and decreased to match the die distance between centers of two of said plurality of stations when longer than the die distance by simultaneously deforming said bridges while maintaining said centers of said adjacent discs substantially on said center line when the distances between said centers of said adjacent discs are respectively lesser than or greater than the distances between said centers of said stations, each of said discs having outer sides, trimming said outer sides of said discs so as to remove two of said four

bridges positioned endmost adjacent said outer sides following said intermediate stations and further comprising the step of engaging said outer sides of a disc which is adjacent said slot cutting station and thereby orienting said disc at said slot cutting station while cutting said at least one slot.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 13, and further including the step of cutting said bridges at substantially equal distances on opposite sides of said center line.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) [A progressive die according to Claim 19] A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to claim 22, wherein two of said bridges are provided on each side of and spaced from said center line.

21. (Currently Amended) [A progressive die] A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to Claim 20 wherein at least one of said bridges has a chevron shape.

22. (Currently Amended) A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material, said die including a series of [die stations] adjacent die stations including an initial die station and additional die stations following said initial die station arranged along an imaginary center line, said stations including punches for cutting said strip and die pilots for positioning said strip, the die distances between said die pilots of successive stations being substantially constant, and said strip being shaped by said die, said strip including a series of sections having strip pilot holes for mating with said die pilots, the strip distances between said strip pilot holes at times being variable and at times longer and at times shorter than said die distances between said die pilots, each of said sections including a

geometric center, and [at least two] four angled deformable bridges connecting adjacent sections of said strip, said die including a slot cutting punch for punching a plurality of laterally extending slots forming said [at least two] four bridges, said sections being relatively stiff and said at least two deformable bridges being sized to both lengthen when said strip distance is shorter than said die distances between said die pilots, and shorten when said strip distance is longer than said die distances to thereby adjust said strip distances of said adjacent sections between said strip pilot holes in order to compensate for said longer and shorter distances between said strip pilot holes while maintaining said geometric centers substantially on said imaginary center line at said additional die stations, said sections having outer sides, said die further includes punches for trimming said outer sides of said sections so as to remove two of said four bridges positioned endmost adjacent said outer sides following said additional die stations and said die further including straddle pilots for engaging with said outer sides of at least one of said sections adjacent said slot cutting punch and for accurately locating said one of said sections.

23. (Currently Amended) A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to Claim 22, wherein at least one of [said at least two] said four deformable bridges has a chevron shape.

24. (Currently Amended) [A progressive die as set forth in claim 3] A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to claim 22, wherein said strip comprises motor lamination steel having a thickness of approximately .025 inch, and said die cuts each of said bridges to a lateral width in the range between substantially .650 inch and .070 inch.

25. (Currently Amended) [A progressive die as set forth in Claim 24] A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to claim 24, wherein said lateral width is substantially .660 inch.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said strip comprises motor lamination steel having a thickness of approximately .025 inch, and said slot forms each of said bridges to a lateral width in the range between substantially .050 and .070 inch.

29-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) [A progressive die according to Claim 20] A combination of a progressive die and a strip of lamination material according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said bridges has an arcuate shape.

53. (Currently Amended) A combination of a progressive die and a strip of material according to Claim 22, wherein at least one of said at least two deformable bridges has an arcuate shape.

54. (Currently Amended) A combination of a progressive die and strip of lamination material according to Claim 22, wherein said at least two deformable bridges each has a chevron shape.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) [An] A combination of an elongate progressive lamination die assembly and a strip of lamination material, said die assembly having a longitudinal axis and a series of successive die stations including an initial die station and additional die stations following said initial die station serially disposed along said longitudinal axis, the center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between [the] die centers of each pair of adjacent die stations being fixed, at least some of said die stations including punches for shaping a series of interconnected lamination discs in an elongate scroll metal strip, the center-to-center spacing between the geometric centers of adjacent discs in said strip being at times longer and at times shorter than said fixed center-to-center spacing between said die centers of each pair of said adjacent die stations, a slot punch for

forming [at least one elongate slot] a plurality of elongate slots extending in a lateral direction transverse to said longitudinal axis and [a plurality of] four angled narrow bridges spaced apart in said lateral direction by [said at least one elongate] said elongate slots, [said plurality of] said four bridges being deformable for maintaining accurate progression of said discs along said longitudinal axis through said die stations despite variations in said center-to-center spacing in said geometric centers of adjacent discs in said strip by enabling changes to the center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of adjacent discs, said bridges being sufficiently narrow in said lateral direction to deform to both lengthen said center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of said adjacent discs when said center-to-center spacing is shorter than said fixed center-to-center spacing between said die centers, and shorten said center-to-center spacing along said longitudinal axis between said geometric centers of said adjacent discs when said center-to-center spacing is longer than said fixed center-to-center spacing between said die centers, said narrow deformable bridges and said elongate slots being aligned in said lateral direction at said additional die stations, said die assembly further includes punches for trimming outer sides of said discs so as to remove two of said four bridges positioned endmost adjacent said outer sides following said additional die stations, and straddle pilots physically disposed in said die assembly at a die station adjacent to said slot punch for physically engaging four sides of a disc in said die station and for accurately locating said physically engaged disc in said die station while [said at least one elongate slot and said plurality of] said elongate slots and said four narrow bridges are being formed by said slot punch.

57-60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim [60] 13, wherein the step of engaging [and accurately locating] further comprises arranging straddle pilots at said slot cutting station to engage said outer sides of each disc while at said slot cutting station.

62. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim [59] 13, wherein [the step of providing a plurality of die stations] said plurality of stations further comprises [providing] a pilot hole punch at said slot cutting station, and further comprising the steps of forming one or more non-centrally located pilot holes in each disc at said slot cutting station and aligning

a corresponding pilot pin into each of said pilot holes at each die station subsequent to said slot cutting station to thereby lengthwise position and orient said discs at each of said intermediate stations.

63-64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim [15] 13, wherein the step of cutting further comprises forming [said at least two] said four bridges being formed having a chevron shape.

66-87. (Canceled)